
TAREE VETERINARY HOSPITAL

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JULY NEWSLETTER

I write this looking over water. Over 300 ml in a night. I now know my rain gauge holds 300 ml, and it had overflowed. The most in a night since the 1890s is probably why they don't make 500 ml rain gauges, but maybe there is a market for them. Or I just get an automated one, which hopefully will send a message to my phone saying move the cows now, or this is End of Days.

This rain on the east coast will of course put pressure on existing feed and where to get feed from. It may also reduce the quality of mandarins.

So, on to the pestilence part. A client asked a good question about what would

happen to stored embryos if we have a FMD outbreak. The answer depends on a few things, such as if you are an infected premises or a contact farm, or outside of the restricted zone, and when they were collected. If you are infected or a contact premise and the embryos were stored on farm, they may have to be destroyed part of the resolution of the farm. If the embryos were collected more than 28 days before disease introduction, and meet biosecurity requirements, they may get a permit to move within a declared area. It therefore may be worthwhile to store eggs off farm. However, whole herd destructions hopefully would be rare.

This month I have semen tested lots of bulls before sale, and have seen no seminal vesiculitis or respiratory disease which often affect semen quality. Very few bulls have failed their semen tests. All bulls have their prostate and seminal vesicles checked, testes palpated and scrotal circumference measured, then electroejaculated. This is when the penis is examined and semen taken. The semen then has its sperm/ml and motility measured. Definitely the glamorous side of the job !

Bull selection for sale by the stud is both an art and a science, and a huge amount of effort and experience go into it. The art is in what you can see, and how that will predict how he looks in the future. It's also what you know of the cow family and sire. The science is in what you can't see or predict, and EBVs and genomic testing are invaluable there.

Cattle Diseases of the Month
calvings
prolapses, vaginal and uterine
eye cancers
lame cows
corkscrew penis
lots of preg tests

Upcoming Bull sales

Curcabark Angus and Herefords, Mon 25th July. This is their 70th year as a stud which is an incredible milestone for the Higgins family.

The Laurie family's Knowla Livestock - selling 84 Angus bulls and some heifers on Friday 29th July.

And in the Horses.....

This time of year we start to prepare for foalings, with IgG tests and plasma. On farm there are things you can do to prepare. Firstly an area for foaling that is dog proof and has a decent fence to stop the foal getting under it and out. A stable is good if the weather is bad. Garbage bag and gloves for membranes. Iodine for umbilicus. Fleet enema for colt foals. About 300 ml of frozen colostrum is always handy. Foaling alarms are good, but you have to be ready for false alarms at all times of the night !

Mares usually foal within 20 mins with both front feet and head. Anything

abnormal call us straight away. They also need to pass their membranes intact and within 18 or so hours. Longer than this they risk infection and laminitis.

Horse diseases of the month

Cuts
Colics
lamenesses
laminitis
foot abscesses
corneal ulcers
squamous cell carcinoma

RUN DATES FOR JULY

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| LANSDOWNE..... | THURS 7TH |
| OXLEY/MITCHELL'S IS..... | TUES 12TH |
| HANNAM VALE..... | THURS 14TH |
| DYER'S CROSSING..... | TUES 19TH |
| WINGHAM..... | THURS 21ST |
| LORNE/COMBOYNE..... | TUES 25TH |
| COOMBA AND THE DEEP SOUTH.... | THURS 27TH |

